

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please approve the attached one sheet of Proposed Drawing Corrections which indicates in red proposed corrections to Fig. 12.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, line 9, please insert --February 3, 1995-- after "filed".

On page 1, line 10, please insert --08/383,752-- after "Serial No.".

On page 14, line 8, please delete "20" and insert therefor --23--.

On page 14, line 17, please delete "20" and insert therefor --23--.

On page 15, line 4, please delete "20" and insert therefor --23--.

On page 28, line 7, please delete "pointer field 268" and insert therefor --pointer field 270--.

On page 28, line 11, please delete "pointer field 268" and insert therefor --pointer field 270--.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please delete claims 1-60.

~~Please add new claims 61-106 as follows:~~

Sub B 1
--61. A method for providing simultaneous access by at least first and second users to a common file on a computer network which has at least one physical storage device, said method comprising the steps of:

defining in said at least one physical storage device a common partition for storing common data which is accessible to said first and second users;

defining in said at least one physical storage device a first partition for storing first update data representing changes to the common data in first user selected data fields in said common partition, said first update data in said first partition is at least partially inaccessible to said second user;

providing said first update data to the first partition; and

selectively merging said first update data into said common partition at a desired time so as to replace the common data in said first user selected data fields with said first update data.

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--62. The method of claim *61* wherein said first and common partitions form a first partition chain in which said first user may access data in the first and common partitions within said first partition chain.

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--63. The method of claim *61* further comprising the steps of:

defining in said at least one physical storage device a second partition for storing second update data representing changes to the common data in second user selected data fields in said common partition, said second update data in said second partition is at least partially inaccessible to said first user; and

providing said second update data to the second partition.

A1
4 64. The method of claim 63 wherein said second and common partitions form a second partition chain in which said first user may access data in the second and common partitions within said second partition chain.

5 65. The method of claim 62 further comprising the step of selectively merging said second update data into said common partition at a desired time so as to replace the common data in said second user selected data fields with said second update data.

6 66. The method of claim 65 wherein said steps of selectively merging said first and second update data comprises the step of consolidating said first update data and second update data to replace the corresponding first and second user selected data fields in said common partition.

7 67. The method of claim 66 wherein said consolidating step comprises the step of selecting between conflicting data of said first and second update data in accordance with

specified criteria for replacing the common data in said same data field, in the event that the first and second user selected data fields are the same data field in the common partition.

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~~68.~~ The method of claim *65* wherein the first and second update data comprises changes to the common data in the common partitions in the form of one or more of data addition, data removal, data annotation, data deletion, and data append.

9
~~69.~~ The method of claim *65* wherein said first and second partitions reside in different physical storage devices in said computer network.

11
~~70.~~ The method of claim *61* wherein the common partition comprises a library partition.

12
~~71.~~ The method of claim *70* further comprising the steps of:
defining an archival partition for archiving earlier versions of data of data fields in the common partition; and

transferring data to be archived from the common partition to the archival partition.

13
~~72.~~ The method of claim *61* wherein said first partition and said common partition reside in different physical storage devices in said computer network.

~~14~~ 73. The method of claim ~~12~~ ¹³ wherein said common partition resides in a host storage device in a host computer and said first partition resides in a first storage device in a first computer connected to said host computer in said computer network and operated by said first user to provide said first update data.

~~15~~ ¹⁴ 74. The method of claim ~~73~~ ¹⁴ wherein the second partition resides in a second storage device in a second computer connected to said host computer in said computer network and operated by said second user to provide said second update data.

~~16~~ ¹³ 75. The method of claim ~~72~~ ¹³ wherein said first update data is provided by the user while the different storage devices in said computer network are disconnected.

~~17~~ ¹⁶ 76. The method of claim ~~75~~ ¹⁶ wherein said first update data is provided by the user while said first computer is not logged into said computer network, and said step of selective merging said first update data is undertaken after said first computer is subsequently logged into said computer network.

~~18~~ 77. The method of claim ~~61~~ ¹ wherein said common partition is defined in a read-only storage device provided in said computer network.

19 78. The method of claim 17 wherein said read only storage device is a CD-ROM device.

20 79. The method of claim 61 wherein said first update data is provided to said first partition independent of the common partition while leaving said common partition free from changes represented by said first update data prior to said selectively merging step for said first update data.

10 80. The method of claim 65 wherein said second update data is provided to said second partition independent of the common partition while leaving said common partition free from changes represented by said second update data prior to said selectively merging step for said second update data.

21 81. The method of claim 61 wherein said first update data is provided by the user while the first partition is disconnected from the common partition.

Sub B2 82. A storage system for a computer network simultaneously accessible by at least first and second users, comprising:

at least one physical storage device,
a common partition defined in said at least one physical storage device storing common data which is accessible to said first and second users;

a first partition defined in said at least one physical storage device storing first update data provided by said first user representing changes to the common data in first user selected data fields in said common partition, said first update data in said first partition is at least partially inaccessible to said second user; and

means for selectively merging said first update data into said common partition at a desired time so as to replace the common data in said first user selected data fields with said first update data.

23 *22*
83. The system of claim 82 wherein said first and common partitions form a first partition chain in which said first user may access data in the first and common partitions within said first partition chain.

24 *22*
84. The system of claim 82 further comprising:
a second partition defined in said at least one physical storage device for storing second update data provided by a second user representing changes to the common data in second user selected data fields in said common partition, said second update data in said second partition is at least partially inaccessible to said first user.

25 *24*
85. The system of claim 84 wherein said second and common partitions form a second partition chain in which said first user may access data in the second and common partitions within said second partition chain.

~~26~~ ²⁵ 86. The system of claim ~~85~~ further comprising means for selectively merging said second update data into said common partition at a desired time so as to replace the common data in said second user selected data fields with said second update data.

~~27~~ ²⁶ 87. The system of claim ~~86~~ wherein said means for selectively merging said first and second update data comprises means for consolidating said first update data and second update data to replace the corresponding first and second user selected data fields in said common partition.

~~28~~ ²⁷ 88. The system of claim ~~87~~ wherein said means for consolidating comprises means for selecting between conflicting data of said first and second update data in accordance with specified criteria for replacing the common data in said same data field, in the event that the first and second user selected data fields are the same data field in the common partition.

~~37~~ ²⁶ 89. The system of claim ~~86~~ wherein the first and second update data comprises changes to the common data in the common partitions in the form of one or more of data addition, data removal, data annotation, data deletion, and data append.

~~38~~ ²⁶ 90. The system of claim ~~86~~ wherein said first and second partitions reside in different physical storage devices in said computer network.

~~29~~²⁷₉₁ The system of claim ~~87~~²⁷ wherein the common partition comprises a library partition.

~~30~~²⁹₉₂ The system of claim ~~91~~²⁹ further comprising:
an archival partition for archiving earlier versions of data of data fields defined in the common partition; and
means for transferring data to be archived from the common partition to the archival partition.

~~31~~³⁰₉₃ The system of claim ~~92~~³⁰ wherein said first partition and said common partition reside in different physical storage devices in said computer network.

~~32~~³¹₉₄ The system of claim ~~93~~³¹ wherein said common partition resides in a host storage device in a host computer and said first partition resides in a first storage device in a first computer connected to said host computer in said computer network and operated by said first user to provide said first update data.

~~33~~³²₉₅ The system of claim ~~94~~³² wherein the second partition resides in a second storage device in a second computer connected to said host computer in said computer network and operated by said second user to provide said second update data.

~~34~~ ³¹ 96. The system of claim ~~93~~ wherein said first update data is provided by the user while the different storage devices in said computer network are disconnected.

~~35~~ ³⁴ ~~97.~~ The system of claim ~~96~~ wherein said first update data is provided by the user while said first computer is not logged into said computer network, and said means for selective merging said first update data is undertaken after said first computer is subsequently logged into said computer network.

~~39~~ ²² ~~98.~~ The system of claim ~~82~~ wherein said common partition is defined in a read-only storage device provided in said computer network.

~~40~~ ³⁹ ~~99.~~ The system of claim ~~98~~ wherein said read only storage device is a CD-ROM device.

~~41~~ ²² ~~100.~~ The system of claim ~~82~~ wherein said first update data is provided to said first partition independent of the common partition while leaving said common partition free from changes represented by said first update data prior to selectively merging said first update data.

~~36~~ ³⁴ ~~101.~~ The system of claim ~~96~~ wherein said second update data is provided to said second partition independent of the common partition while leaving said common partition

free from changes represented by said second update data prior to selectively merging said second update data.

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~~102.~~ The system of claim ~~82~~ wherein said first update data is provided by the user while the first partition is disconnected from the common partition.

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~~103.~~ A method for providing simultaneous access by at least first and second users to a common file on a computer network which has at least one physical storage device, said method comprising the steps of:

defining in said at least one physical storage device a common partition for storing data fields of said common file which are accessible to said first and second users;

defining in said at least one physical storage device a first partition for storing first update data representing changes to first user selected data fields of said common file in said common partition without storing the actual first user selected data fields of said common file, said first update data in said first partition is at least partially inaccessible to said second user;

providing said first update data to the first partition; and

selectively merging said first update data into said common partition at a desired time so as to replace the first user selected data fields of said common file with said first update data.

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44 *43*
104. The method as in claim ~~103~~ wherein said first partition is structured and configured to store first update data which represents changes in the form one or more of data addition, data removal, data annotation, data deletion, and data append with respect to the first user selected data fields.

A1 *45*
105. A method for providing simultaneous access by at least first and second users to a common file on a computer network which has at least one physical storage device, said method comprising the steps of:

defining in said at least one physical storage device a common partition for storing data fields of said common file which are accessible to said first and second users;

defining in said at least one physical storage device a first partition for storing first update data representing changes to first user selected data fields of said common file in said common partition without storing the unchanged data fields of said common file, said first update data in said first partition is at least partially inaccessible to said second user;

providing said first update data to the first partition; and

selectively merging said first update data into said common partition at a desired time so as to replace the first user selected data fields of said common file with said first update data.

46 *45*
106. The method as in claim ~~105~~ wherein said first partition is structured and configured to store first update data which represents changes in the form one or more of